

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-47 (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a media stream in a communications system that includes an Internet Protocol (IP) network, the method comprising the steps of:

configuring a service for providing the media stream to a first entity, by sending a service request to a gateway controller, having a first IP address, ~~known—Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)~~ the service request including information relevant to the first entity;

initiating the media stream for a session between the first entity and a second entity, with the first entity receiving, and the second entity sending the media stream via a data path that includes a gateway coupled to the IP network, the gateway being managed by the gateway controller;

negotiating a format for the media stream, wherein the media stream with a format unacceptable to the first entity is converted to an acceptable format by the gateway prior to forwarding the media stream to the first entity;

the first entity invoking the gateway controller, via a path between the gateway controller, and the first entity that is separate from the data path carrying the media stream between the gateway and the first entity to cause the gateway to process the media stream received from the second entity;

processing the media stream according to the negotiated formats; and

sending the processed media stream on to the first entity.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the session, comprising the media stream, begins when a connection is established between the first and second entities and terminates when the connection ends and

the step of configuring a service is performed by the first entity sending a service request from the first entity to the gateway controller.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the service request includes necessary address information for the first entity for receiving the media stream.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the media stream is a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) voice stream, the voice stream being directed to the first entity via the IP network.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the media stream is a video stream in Motion Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) format, wherein the media stream is directed to the first entity via the IP network and if the format of the media stream is unacceptable to the first entity the media stream is sent to the gateway for conversion before forwarding to the first entity.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of the first entity sending a service request to the gateway controller to configure the service for providing the media stream to the first entity.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the service request includes the type of service requested.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of

responding to the service request including address information associated with the gateway in the form of an IP address and a port number.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 further comprising:

processing the video stream by the gateway; and
transferring the video stream from the gateway to the first entity.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising transferring the voice stream, unmodified, over the IP network via the gateway between the second and first entity, if the format of the voice stream provided by the second entity is acceptable to the first entity.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the first entity is a mobile terminal and the second entity is one of a terminal and an end user serving terminal.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the gateway is available for external control through the gateway controller via the known URI of the gateway controller.

60. (Currently Amended) A node, in a communications system that is coupled with an Internet Protocol (IP) network, for processing a media stream, the node comprising:

a gateway controller, having a first IP address, ~~known Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)~~ for providing the media stream to a first entity;

a gateway, having a second IP address and managed by the gateway controller, for processing the media stream;

means for initiating the media stream for a session between the first entity and a second entity, with the first entity receiving, and the second entity sending the media stream over the IP network via a data path that includes the gateway;

means for negotiating a format for the media stream between the first and second entities, wherein a media stream having a format unacceptable to the first entity is converted to an acceptable format by the gateway prior to forwarding the media stream to the first entity;

means for receiving invoking signals from the first entity for the gateway controller, via a path between the gateway and the first entity that is separate from the data path carrying the media stream between the gateway and the first entity to cause the gateway to process the media stream received from the second entity on the data path;

means for processing the media stream according to the negotiated format; and

means for sending the media stream to the first entity via the data path.

61. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60, wherein the session, comprising the media stream, begins when the connection is established between the first and second entities and terminates when the connection ends and

the means for configuring the service for providing the media stream further comprises means in the gateway controller for receiving a service request sent by the first entity.

62. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 61, wherein the service request includes an address for receiving the media stream.

63. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60, wherein the media stream is a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) voice stream, the voice stream being directed to the first entity via the data path.

64. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60, wherein the media stream is in Motion Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) format and is directed to the first entity via the IP network and if the format of the media stream in MPEG format is unacceptable to the first entity the media stream is sent to the gateway for conversion before forwarding to the first entity.

65. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60, further comprising

means for the gateway controller receiving the service request from the first entity to configure the service for providing the media stream to the first entity.

66. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 61, wherein the service request includes the type of service requested.

67. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60 wherein the gateway controller further comprises

means for responding to the service request wherein the response includes address information associated with the gateway in the form of an IP address and a port number.

68. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 63, further comprising
means for transferring the media stream, unmodified, over the IP network via the gateway between the second and first entity, if the format of the media stream provided by the second entity is acceptable to the first entity.

69. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60, wherein the first entity is a mobile terminal and the second entity is one of a terminal and an end user serving terminal.

70. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 60, wherein the gateway is available for external control through the gateway controller via the known URI of the gateway controller.

71. (Currently Amended) A communications system coupled with an Internet Protocol (IP) network for processing a media stream, the communication system comprising:

a gateway controller having a first IP address ~~known Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)~~ for providing the media stream to a first entity;

a gateway, having a second IP address and managed by the gateway controller, for processing the media stream;

means for initiating the media stream for a session between the first entity and a second entity, with the first entity receiving, and the second entity sending the media stream over the IP network via a data path that includes the gateway;

means for negotiating a format for the media stream between the first and second entities, wherein a media stream having a format unacceptable to the first entity is converted to an acceptable format by the gateway prior to forwarding the media stream to the first entity;

means for receiving invoking signals from the first entity for the gateway controller, via a path between the gateway and the first entity that is separate from the data path, to cause the gateway to process the media stream between the gateway, and the first entity received from the second entity on the data path;

means for processing the media stream according to the negotiated format; and

means for sending the media stream to the first entity via the data path.

72. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, wherein the session, comprising the media stream, begins when the connection is established between the first and second entities and terminates when the connection ends and

the means for configuring the service for providing the media stream further comprises means in the gateway controller for receiving a service request sent by the first entity.

73. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 72, wherein the service request includes an address for receiving the media stream.

74. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, wherein the media stream is a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) voice stream, the voice stream being directed to the first entity via the data path.

75. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, wherein the media stream is in Motion Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) format and is directed to the first entity via the IP network and if the format of the media stream in MPEG format is unacceptable to the first entity the media stream is sent to the gateway for conversion before forwarding to the first entity.

76. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, further comprising

receiver means for the gateway controller to receive the service request from the first entity to configure the service for providing the media stream to the first entity.

77. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 72, wherein the service request includes the type of service requested.

78. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71 wherein the gateway controller further comprises

means for responding to the service request wherein the response to the service request includes address information associated with the gateway in the form of an IP address and a port number.

79. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, further comprising

means for transferring the media stream, unmodified, over the IP network via the gateway between the second and first entity, if the format of the media stream provided by the second entity is acceptable to the first entity.

80. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, wherein the first entity is a mobile terminal and the second entity is one of a terminal and an end user serving terminal.

81. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 71, wherein the gateway is available for external control through the gateway controller via the known URI of the gateway controller.